

WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 19, 2023 6:00 PM – WESTFORD TOWN OFFICE

Members present: Sarah Pinto, Kirsten Tyler, Joel Fay, Elias Rosenblatt

Public present: Dale Rodgers

6:03 pm – Meeting called to order

- Review and Approval of January meeting minutes
 - JF motions, KT seconds, all in favor.
- Changes to Agenda
 - ER - Addition of discussion point for May or June trail maintenance day
 - KT – Bee the change pollinator garden update

6:05 pm

- Public Comment
 - Dale Rodgers:
 - Ticks are out and about
 - WCC will add tick reminder for newsletter, along with Tick Safe image listing tips on avoiding ticks.
 - Dog bag restocking and management
 - WCC to send thank you note to volunteer who is restocking plastic dog waste bags, and removing trash bags.
 - KT to email town office to organize purchase of bags to supply volunteer(s).
 - WCC will send a FPF post about doggie bag etiquette as summer season approaches.

6:17 pm

- Review of CC consortium meeting – ideas from other Chittenden County CCs.
 - SEP, KT, and ER attended
 - Ideas exchanged on Bee the change, amphibian crossings activities, pollinator protection plan (limiting mowing fields until after blooming)

6:23 – WNRCD collaboration – update on template and letters

- WNRCD has identified areas for riparian restoration along the Browns River, including in Westford.
- WCC will facilitate connecting interested landowners with WNRCD
- RKT to FPF post announcement about funding opportunities for restoration for private land owners

- WCC could host a forum with WNRCD to answer questions from interested landowners.

6:35

- ARPA Shed?
 - SEP to complete zoning permit application
 - Discussed next steps for site prep after zoning permit is approved, hopefully later in June.
- Donation to REC Moonlight Walks (\$125.00)
 - SEP motioned, JF seconded, all in favor.

6:45 – Trail Updates

- Closures – blanket closure of school trails below fields?
 - Trails have been relatively dry, but may need to adjust as spring rains pick back up.
- Storywalk
 - Bree Drapa (Library) is making a new one, will contact when ready, and would like to continue.
- Covey “public trail” sign needs replacement at Covey Rd end.

6:50 – Other business

- Newsletter Items – mud season
 - Tick safety
 - Doggie bags - dispose properly, be mindful and respectful
 - WNRDC announcement regarding funding for riparian restoration
 - Tease spring clean up day
- SEP to schedule time at Selectboard to discuss kiosk construction
- Contacted by Bee the Change to develop pollinator garden at Westford Elementary School
 - KT joined a site visit, and contacted school about plan and discussed involvement of students in the design of the pollinator garden
- Schedule May meeting
 - Discussion of XC trail divisions
 - Choose workday in June
 - Next meeting will occur on 3rd Wednesday of May (May 17).

Meeting Adjourned at 7:02 (Motioned by ER, seconded by SEP, all in favor.)